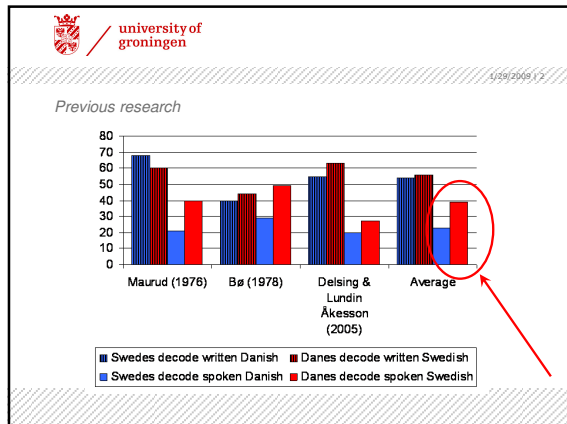


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Excluding the influence of extra-linguistic factors on mutual intelligibility



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- Suggested factors causing the asymmetry in intelligibility scores
- Extra-linguistic factors:**
- › Contact to the language
 - › Attitude
 - › Literacy
- Linguistic factors**
- › Prosodic features
 - › Word length
 - › "Foreign sounds" etc.

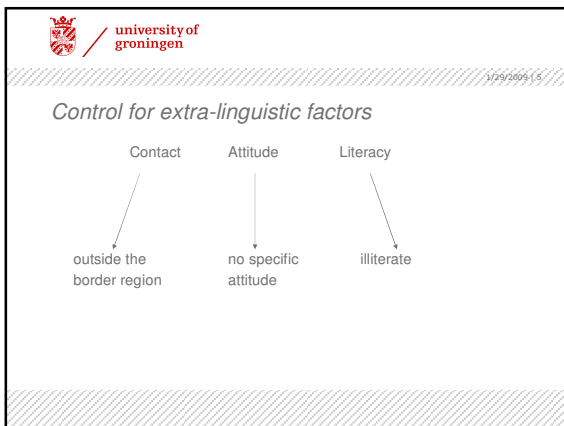
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Primary research question

What role do *linguistic factors* play for mutual intelligibility between Danes and Swedes?

- ⇒ Experimental study
- ⇒ Control for the extra-linguistic factors
- ⇒ Between-group comparison of the intelligibility scores



Shortest distance to the neighbouring country



- > Odense – Malmö: 200 km
- > Växjö – Helsingør: 199 km

Questionnaire elicitation

28 tested children with data concerning:

- > Literacy
- > Previous exposure to neighbouring language
- > Positive, negative or no specific attitude towards the neighbouring language

=> 12 Danish children from Odense, aged 5-6 ys. (mean=6;1)
 12 Swedish children from Växjö, aged 5-6 ys. (mean=6;0)

Auditory stimuli:
 50 highly frequent picturable cognate nouns produced by native regional standard speakers (e.g. Odense and Växjö)

Visual stimuli:
 50+150=200 pictures from the MPI (Nijmegen) picture database



Procedure

Stimulus-response-task

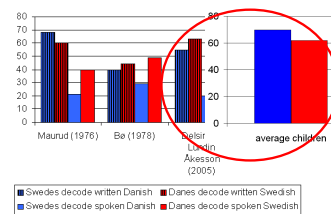
- > Auditory presentation of stimulus material: Danish children hear Swedish and vice versa
- > Visual presentation of four pictures per stimulus
- > Children are instructed to point to the corresponding item

Example (Danish subjects)

- (1) Swedish *boll* is auditorily presented, while
- (2) four pictures are visually presented:



Results





Results

- › No significant asymmetry in intelligibility scores

Conclusion

- › Asymmetry in adult intelligibility scores is likely to be caused by extra-linguistic factors